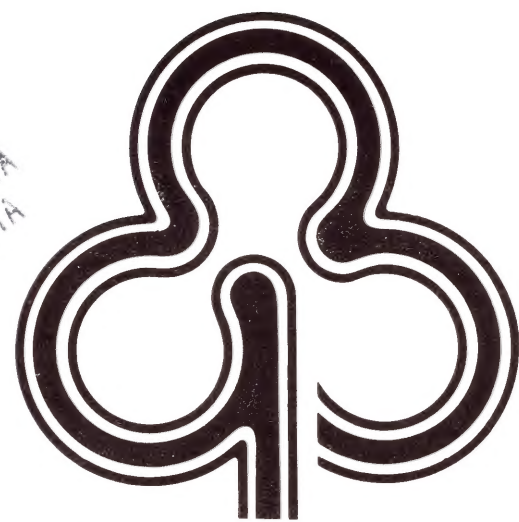


MAP COLLECTION
UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
EDMONTON, ALBERTA
CANADA



CAPITAL CITY RECREATION PARK



History

A large portion of Edmonton residents, almost 30 per cent, have difficulty affording the simplest and least expensive of recreational advantages.

Fifty-three provincial parks and five national parks dot Alberta's landscape, providing enjoyment both for Albertans and visitors to this province.

Yet large numbers of her citizens, of low income, disadvantaged, ageing or infirm, may never be able to afford the luxury of a drive to the countryside or wilderness for the relaxation and recreation these parks can provide.

It was to provide improved recreational opportunities for all Edmontonians, as well as to upgrade river facilities before the 1978 Commonwealth Games, that the Alberta government decided to provide about \$34 million for a parks development in the river valley of east Edmonton. (The amount was set in terms of a 1974 dollar value.)

Most of the planning and development for this river area, now known as the Capital City Recreation Park, is complete. It complements the city's 1970 master plan for parks development and provides funds for trails, landscaping, shoreline stabilization, public use amenities, a science centre, four pedestrian bridges, fresh water lagoons, and property acquisition within two narrow strips on both banks of the North Saskatchewan River.

The vision, to provide a recreation playground in the river heart of a rapidly growing and modern city, is not a new one.

As early as 1907, the city council of that era entertained a report by Frederick G. Todd, a landscape architect from Montreal, that designed a plan for parks and boulevards in Edmonton.

It recommended . . . "every advantage should be taken of the great natural beauty of the situation . . . by withdrawing for parks purposes, property, such as the river valley and ravines."

Mr. Todd's recommendation for a river valley park system was accepted and adopted into the 1915 city plan.

In 1933, the city zoned much of the area for use as a "public park", introducing land use regulations to that effect.



Premier Lougheed

A further report, the Bland-Spence Sales Report, was adopted in principle by city council in 1949. It recommended a "comprehensive system of parkways" throughout the whole river valley and

proposed a system by which development in the river valley could be opposed. This was first implemented in 1951 when council approved a plan showing Rosedale Flats as proposed parkland.

With the application, in 1968, for a permit to develop an apartment project that would intrude 60 feet into the river valley, council was asked to consider a "top-of-the-bank" policy as legislation. When it was adopted, in 1970, it defined the limit of the river valley and ravine system, introduced principles governing development in proximity to the river valley and prescribed regulation for development permits or zoning certificates in areas adjacent to the limit of the river valley and ravine system.

The city's general plan by-law of 1971 for the first time gave legal authority to river valley policy objectives and designated lands for long-range acquisition for future parks development.

A joint announcement by the provincial and city governments, that some \$34 million would be made available for specific areas within a 16-kilometre long stretch from the area below the Legislative Building to Hermitage Park in the city's extreme northeast corner, was made April 26, 1974. It was ratified on February 11, 1975 when the park's agreement was signed by the premier, Peter Lougheed, and Edmonton's mayor of that period, the late William Hawrelak.

Premier Lougheed described the plan as "the most exciting and novel approach to assuring the quality of life for families in metropolitan centres yet proposed for Canadian cities."

Currently, the river valley is primarily zoned metropolitan recreational, but does include land zone for other uses.

BARD

12-11-73

Edmonton E-40 (1978?)

The term "Capital City Recreation Park" refers directly to areas commonly known as Gold Bar Park, Hermitage Park and Rundle Park, any other lands agreed to by the city and province and the area of Strathcona Science Park in the County of Strathcona, downstream from the Imperial Oil Refinery.

This area is divided into two sub-areas, the larger being a "restricted development area" containing portions of the total development. Within this area, however, is the "water conservation area", a narrow strip of land on both banks of the North Saskatchewan River.

The province's agreement with the city stipulates that \$5 million will be set aside for land acquisition in the whole of Capital City Recreation Park. Title to lands obtained within the water conservation area, the direct purview of the Alberta Department of the Environment, will be held by the city.

An early park concept within the Capital City Recreation Park included construction of a weir proposed to raise the level of the river's waters so that for 10 kilometres upstream, those waters could be used for water sports recreation.

While some boating activities, notably kayaking, sculling and canoeing, will still be practised in the North Saskatchewan River, the weir will not be a feature of Capital City Recreation Park.

Studies had stated that the quality of the water in the critical areas was unsatisfactory both because it was polluted and because it was too cold for body contact.

Funds allocated for construction of the weir were allocated to several different projects within the entire Capital City Recreation Park system, including a fresh water lagoon system in Rundle Park.

A pedestrian bridge which was to have been incorporated into the weir design was replaced by a bridge similar to others constructed at three other locations in the river valley.

The entire concept of the park system itself was re-worked so that a higher quality trail system was developed throughout its length.

The Rundle-Strathcona Bridge has been designed to accommodate a public transportation system for the disabled in order that they may move between Rundle Park and Science Park.

Capital costs for the entire project remain within \$34 million (in 1974 dollars).

Landscaping costs \$1,609,500, with a portion of the funds going toward enhancement of the Grierson Hill location.

Total bill for the trail system now will be \$3.8 million and amenities such as washrooms, drinking fountains and viewing platforms are expected to cost \$1,250,000.

Recreation facilities such as launching and docking sites and a retrieval area for rafts during Klondike Days races will cost \$120,000.

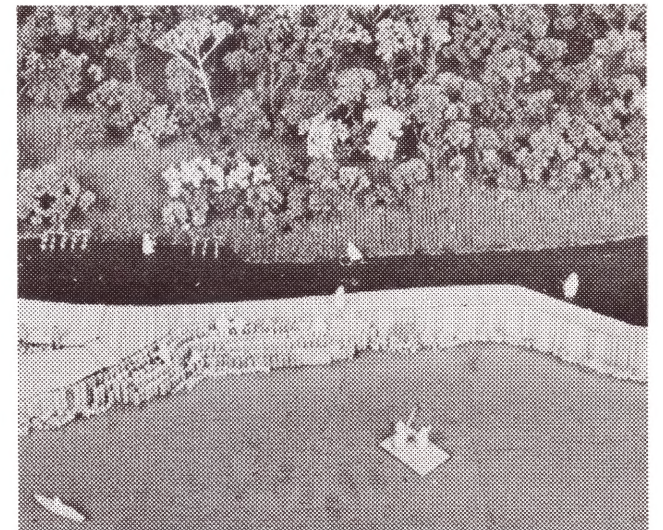
Funds also have been allocated to improvements within the three city parks, with Rundle Park development being budgeted for a \$5.8 million including water based recreation facilities. Improvements to Gold Bar Park have been scheduled at \$2 million while improvements to Hermitage Park will cost \$1 million. Included in the Rundle Park development funds were monies allocated to the 18-hole, par-three golf course and clubhouse, and installation of lighting for the sports field on the highlands of Gold Bar Park. The Science Park

scheduled for Strathcona Park is to cost \$5 million. Land acquisition will take up the remaining \$5 million of the \$34 million budget. The Strathcona Science Park is planned for completion in the mid-summer of 1979.

All costs were estimated at 1974 dollar value and will increase with inflation.

An interesting and very important aspect of the agreement between the city and province is Alberta's agreement to pay 100 per cent of all operating and maintenance costs incurred before December 31, 1979. From that point until December 31, 1982, the province will pay 75 per cent of these costs and will pay 50 per cent thereafter.

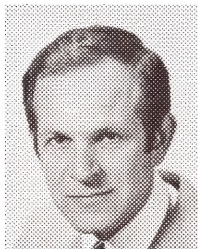
The Strathcona Science Park will be operated by the Museum Branch of Alberta Culture.



Organization

The structure of the Policy Committee for the Capital City Recreation Park and all committees operating under it is such that the city and provincial governments both participate in decision making pertaining to planning and development of the \$34 million park.

The Policy Committee itself comprises the three provincial government ministers whose departments are most involved in development of the park together with the mayor and an alderman from the city of Edmonton.



Mr. Russell



Mr. Adair



Mr. Schmid

Environment Minister Dave Russell sits as chairman of this committee with Al Adair, Minister of Recreation, Parks and Wildlife, and Horst A. Schmid, Minister of Government Services and responsible for Culture, occupying the other provincial government positions.

Mr. Bill Yurko was the original Chairman prior to his transfer to the Ministry of Housing and Public Works.



Mayor Purves



Ald. Dub

Edmonton Mayor Cec Purves is the fourth city mayor to be its representative since Alberta Premier Peter Lougheed unveiled the plan on April 26, 1974. Previous mayors Ivor Dent, the late William Hawrelak, and Terry Cavanagh also sat on the Policy Committee. Alderman Gene Dub now is the city's second representative succeeding Bob Matheson.

The Planning and Development Management Committee, chaired by Walter Solodzuk, Deputy Minister of Alberta Environment, comprises Doug Burrows, Tom Adams and Al Savage of the city of Edmonton, and Peter Melnychuk and Tom Drinkwater, of the Alberta Government.



Water Quality

When the Capital City Recreation Park was first conceived, it was first thought of as a water-oriented focus for recreational activity within the city of Edmonton.

Logically, water quality was of the utmost concern.

The existing quality of the river water was especially suspect in the area below the outfall of the city sewage treatment plant at 50th Street.

Thus it was that Stanley Associates Engineering Ltd. was commissioned to determine the status of water quality in the North Saskatchewan River within the boundaries of Capital City Recreation Park.

Their report, released in August, 1975, was not encouraging to those who envisioned a water playground within Edmonton's city limits.

It pointed to a number of problems relating to sewage, storm sewer and water treatment practices which prompted the consulting firm to label the river water below the sewage treatment plant as in "generally poor condition".

Also given consideration was the comparatively frigid temperatures at which the North Saskatchewan flows even during the warmest months of summer, precluding direct body contact.

Boat launching and recovery facilities are now provided at Cloverdale for those wishing to participate in boating activities. A recovery site for rafts in the annual Klondike Days classic has been developed near the Low Level Bridge in the centre of the city. A parking area and improvements to the 50th Street boat launch site were also completed.



Environmental Impact

On the surface, the creation of a 16-kilometre long park on the banks of the North Saskatchewan River within the city of Edmonton would seem an automatic improvement in environmental factors affecting the river valley and the river itself.

Dangers inherent in the construction of such a large project, however, made it imperative for those planning the park to know exactly what were the likely effects of their activities on three major areas: landforms, vegetation and wildlife.

A task force was struck and was composed of consultants from two Edmonton firms, directed by a senior member of the Alberta Department of the Environment.

That inventory also established several key relationships among landform, vegetative and wildlife structures, pointing out the interdependent relationships that exist among them and indicating the need to preserve certain aspects of the existing terrain if certain other plant and wildlife species are to continue their existence within the park boundaries.

Recommendations from this report were taken into consideration in the development plans for all components of the park.



Bank Stabilization

It is a matter of record that the North Saskatchewan River has been flowing in about the same channel through what now is Edmonton for about 4,000 years.

It is also a matter of record that in spite of this fact, large sections of the river bank within the city limits have demonstrated the nasty habit of "slumping" or caving in to be washed away by the river.

Early in Edmonton's history, coal miners operated closely spaced mines from these slopes, creating the present opportunity for water to percolate through the soil and liberate large sections of river bank.



Bank stabilization, to protect large sections of river edge property within the Capital City Recreation Park, was carried out. Various measures were employed initially at three locations, at a total budget of about \$2.5 million.

The first was along the south bank of the North Saskatchewan River immediately below the future Strathcona Science Park. Additional bank stabilization took place along the outer and upper bank of the river in the area of Ada Boulevard and Hillside Crescent. Forest Heights also received some shoreline protection as a result of the park's budget for bank stabilization.

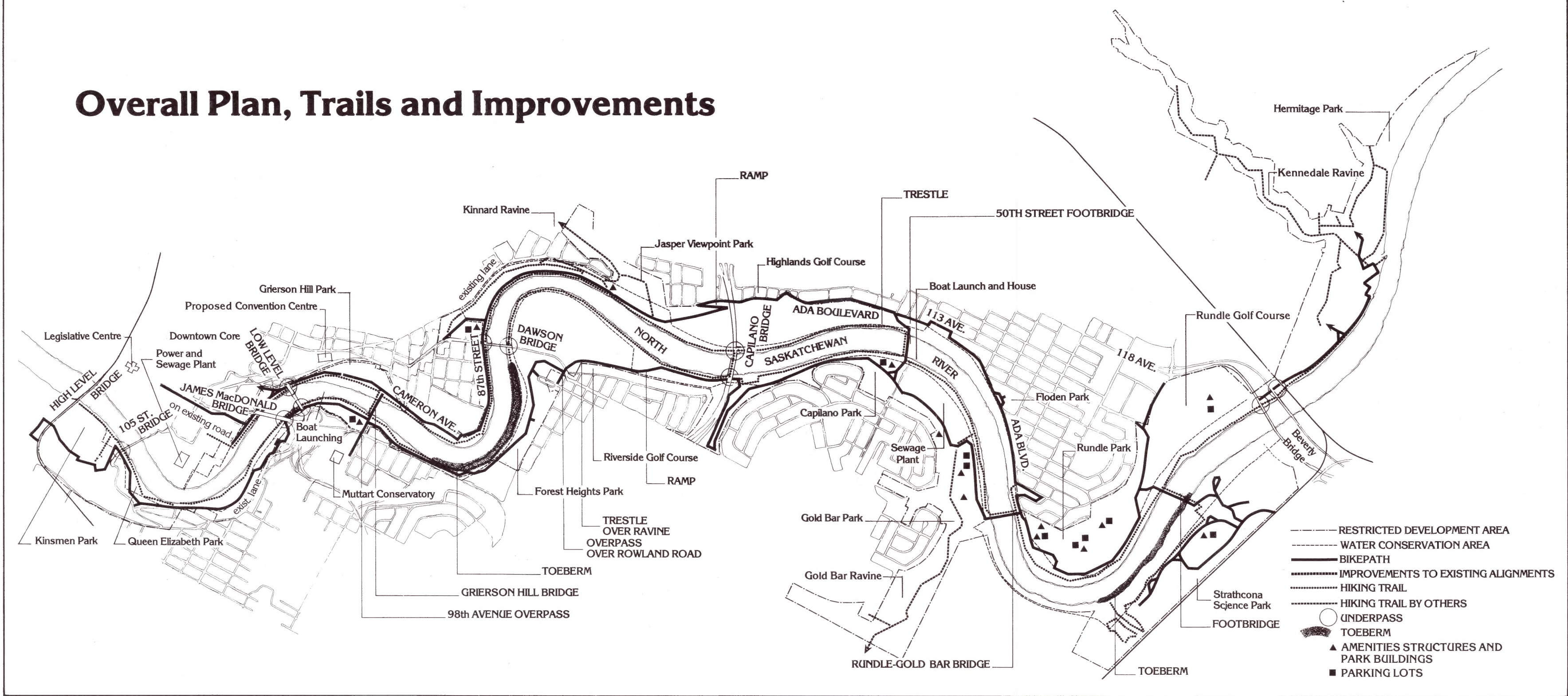
Terms like "berm" and "riprap" may be unfamiliar to the layman. However, they were used liberally in a report by R. M. Hardy & Associates Ltd. of Edmonton when they proposed measures to counteract slumping activity. Their reports recommended that long shoreline stretches of berm covered with heavy rock called riprap be constructed to counteract the erosive forces of river waters, especially during periods of high water.

The Hardy report suggested that drainage measures to counteract the disrupted drainage patterns of the last several decades be incorporated to ensure the stability of bank areas above the berm construction.

The report recommended that all bicycle and hiking paths be designed to balance cuts and fills on transverse slopes within the river valley.



Overall Plan, Trails and Improvements



Trails System

Capital City Recreation Park has been planned around "activity nodes" or areas, each with its own particular attractions. Access to each of these areas by car or other vehicles is provided.

However, for those who wish a less harried journey to some point within the park's length, hiking and cycling trails may provide a more leisurely answer.

These trails, planners feel, will provide pleasant recreational experiences in themselves and will complement existing city parks' trails.

Two separate trail systems extend through most of the park on both sides of the river, beginning at the High Level Bridge and extending downstream to Hermitage Park, two kilometres downstream of the Beverly Bridges.

Care was taken by the designers, Roman Fodchuk & Associates Ltd. of Calgary and Edmonton, that both trail systems would avoid damage to slopes within the river valley and existing tree and ground cover.

The budget of \$3,580,000 for the trails system made provision for: the trails themselves, and linkages to those trails by a ramp approach at Ada Boulevard. Both trail systems converge upon major activity centres within the park and at each of the four pedestrian and cycling bridges crossing the North Saskatchewan River.

These crossings make possible cycling or hiking "loops" from four to eight kilometres long, returning users to their departure point or allowing them to combine a series of trails for longer jaunts.

Several species of animals including whitetail deer, muskrat and snowshoe hare have been observed within the park's boundary along with 123 species of birds. An easily understood sign system serves both to direct walkers and cyclists to points of interest and to demonstrate the valley's natural features as well. In addition, close to one hundred historic sites will also be signed, allowing park users the opportunity to learn at first-hand the area's historical development.

Much of the trail system winds through the water conservation area, the thin strip of land within the park boundaries for which the provincial government has committed funds to acquire properties, both industrial and residential. The bulk of the land required is already held by the city.

Barriers to prevent damage to ecologically sensitive areas and private lands adjacent to the park were recommended and developed.

Capital City Recreation Park OPENING DAY ACTIVITIES JULY 9, 1978

Time	Activity and Group Involved	Location
	OFFICIAL OPENINGS: Dedication of park pylons - Premier Peter Lougheed Mayor Cec Purves Edmonton MLA's Edmonton Aldermen Park Planners Media	
12:00 noon		Legislative Building (near Bowling Green)
12:45 p.m.		Cloverdale Boat Launch (north of 98 Avenue at 97 Street)
2:00 p.m.		Gold Bar Park (at south end of Gold Bar-Rundle) pedestrian/bicycle bridge)
3:00 p.m.		Rundle Park Family Recreation Centre (29 Street and 113 Avenue)
Noon +	CANOE TRIP DOWN THE NORTH SASKATCHEWAN RIVER — <i>Northwest Voyageurs Canoe Club</i>	Cloverdale Boat Launch to Rundle Park
Noon +	ROWING RACES — <i>Edmonton Rowing Club</i>	Cloverdale Boat Launch — Below Ada Boulevard to Rundle Park
Noon +	GROUP HIKE — <i>Waskehegan Trail Assn.</i>	Entire trail system from Legislative Building to Hermitage Park
Noon +	COMMONWEALTH CAVE MAN DAZE — 3-legged races, frisbee throw competition, horseshoe pitching tournament, whist tournament <i>Beverly Heights and Rundle Communities</i>	Floden Park (39 Street and 112 Avenue)
Noon +	CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING ON WHEELS <i>Alberta Cross-Country Ski Association</i>	On bicycle trail

Noon +	UNORGANIZED SPORTS ACTIVITIES — <i>Cromdale Community League</i>	Kinnaird Park (80 Street and Jasper Avenue)
Noon +	SING-SONG <i>Riverdale Community League</i>	Riverdale Park (south of Dawson Bridge)
Noon +	WHEELCHAIR PARK TOUR — <i>ACT Recreation Centre</i>	Rundle Park
Saturday & Sunday	CAPILANO TENNIS CLUB INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT — <i>Capilano, Gold Bar, Fulton Place, Hardisty Community Lgues.</i>	Capilano Tennis Courts
12:30 p.m.	HISTORICAL AND NATURE GUIDES — <i>Edmonton Natural History Club and Edmonton Bird Club</i>	Mill Creek, Kinnaird, Gold Bar and Kennedale Ravines
1:00 p.m.	CHED BICYCLE PICNIC — <i>CHED Radio Station</i>	Rundle Park (Sports Field)
1:00 p.m.	MOTORIZED HANG GLIDER TRIP DOWN RIVER VALLEY — <i>Larry Croome, Alberta Hang Gliders Association</i>	Connors Hill (lift-off) to Rundle Park
1:00 p.m.	TALENT SHOW — <i>Forest Heights Community Lgue.</i>	McNally High School Grounds
1:00 p.m.	DEMONSTRATIONS BY DISABLED — <i>ACT Recreation Centre</i>	Rundle Park
1:30 p.m.	SCATTERING WILD FLOWER SEEDS AND PICK-UP OF LITTER ALONG TRAILS — <i>Girl Guides, Brownies, Rangers, Leaders</i>	Along hiking trails from ACT Centre (pick-up location)
2:00 p.m.	FISHING CLINIC — <i>Edmonton Fish & Game Assn.</i>	Pond in Hermitage Park
2:00 p.m.	MODEL BOAT RACES — <i>Edmonton Parks & Recreation</i>	Model Boat Basin — Rundle Park
2:00 p.m.	SOCCER GAME — <i>Forest Heights Community League</i>	McNally High School
2:45 p.m.	CITY TUG-OF-WAR CHAMPIONSHIPS (8 teams) CHALLENGE SOFT BALL TOURNAMENT (11 teams) <i>Beverly Heights and Rundle Community Leagues</i>	Floden Park

3:00 p.m.	HOT AIR BALLOON FLIGHT (wind permitting) <i>Canada Dry</i>	Rundle Park
4:00 p.m.	BICYCLE DRESS-UP, TRAIL RIDE AND PICNIC <i>Boyle Street Community League</i>	Bissell Centre (96 Street and 102 Avenue)
4:00 p.m.	CELEBRITY BICYCLE-BUILT-FOR-TWO RACE — <i>Rossdale Community League</i>	South end of Baden Powell Park in Rossdale on park bike trail, to Grierson Hill Park via underpasses at James MacDonald and Low Level Bridges and return.
4:00 p.m.	500-METRE SPRINT RACES — <i>Edmonton Rowing Club</i>	Below Ada Boulevard on North Saskatchewan River
5:00 p.m.	BICYCLE GYMKANA AND SKATEBOARD COMPETITION — <i>Capilano Community League</i>	Capilano Community Area (54 Street and 108 Avenue)
Dinner Hour Period	Numerous Communities will hold closed barbecues, wiener roasts and bonfire programs	
10:55 p.m.	FIREWORKS SHOW (16 kilometres long) ignited from five different locations along the river valley. (CHED Radio will provide a countdown for city residents.)	105 Street Bridge area, Forest Heights — McNally High School Grounds, Capilano Park, Rundle Park and Hermitage Park
11:00 p.m.	Park closes for the day. All activities finish.	
	During the day members of the Alberta Eskimo Sideband Club will provide radio communication for the opening.	Cloverdale amenities structure Dawson amenities structure Kinnaird Ravine shelter Capilano amenities structure Rundle Family Recreation Centre
	St. John Ambulance will provide four mobile first aid units along with bicycle mounted cadets for the trails.	Cloverdale amenities structure Dawson amenities structure Kinnaird Ravine shelter Capilano amenities structure First Aid Room at the ACT Recreation Centre
	Edmonton Ski Club's Ski Patrol will hike the trails to provide first aid and other assistance.	Hiking trails



Please hike or bring a bike because parking is limited.

Barriers have also been constructed to prevent cars from driving on the asphalt strip provided for the bicycle trail system. Care has been taken that ecologically sensitive zones were by-passed for any development as outlined in the park's planning studies.

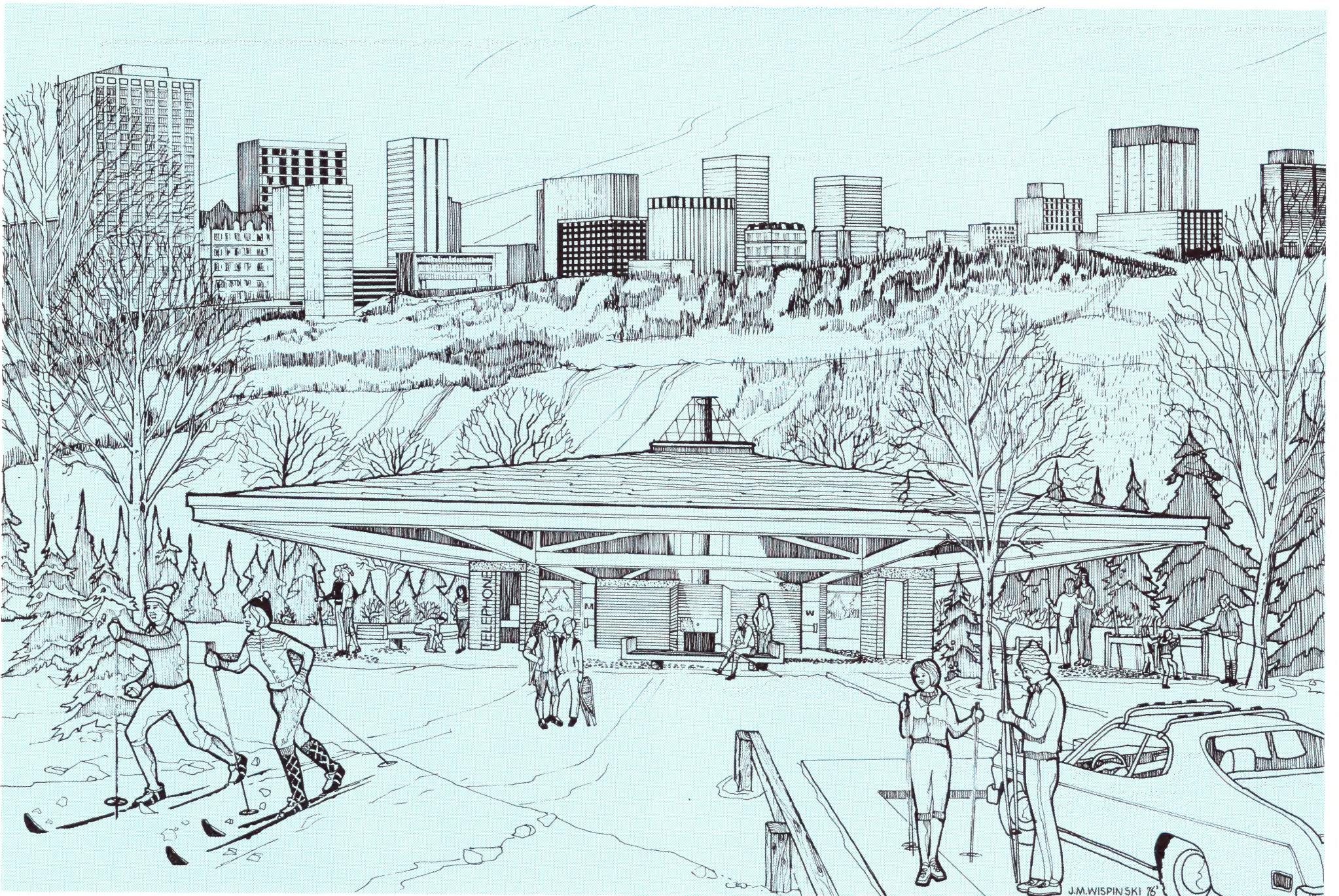
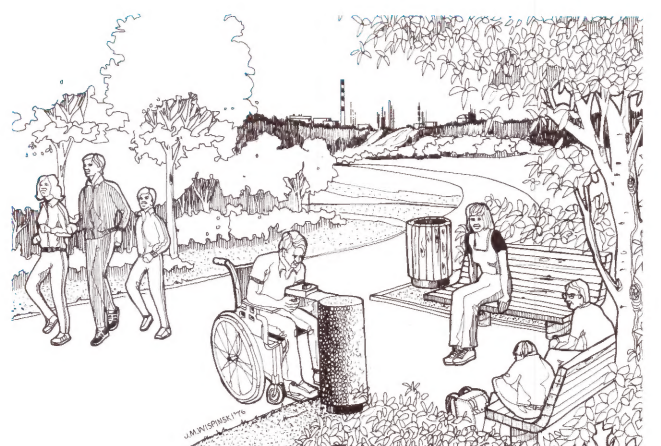
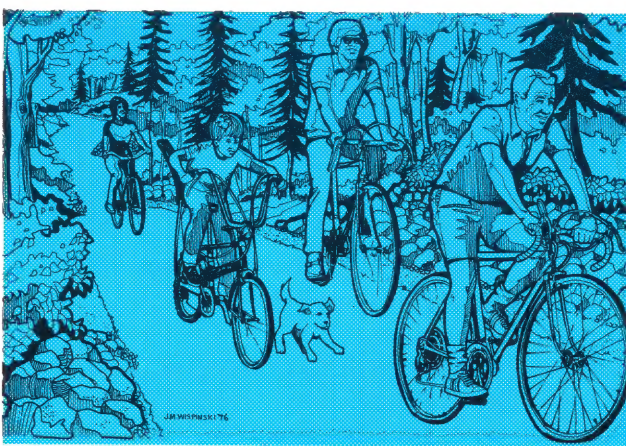
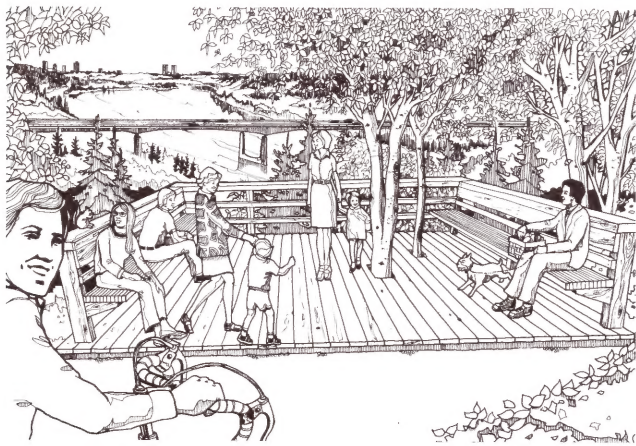
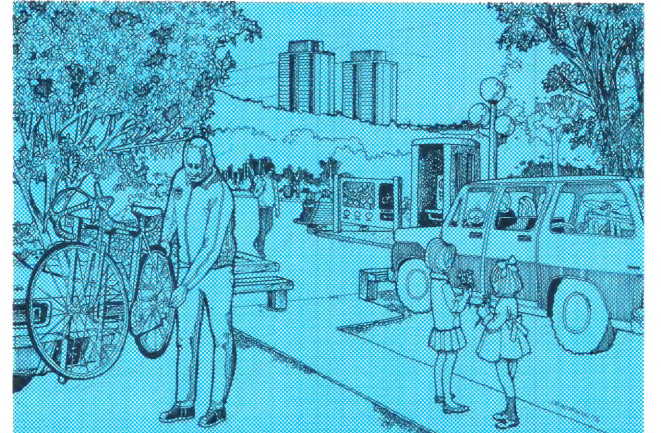
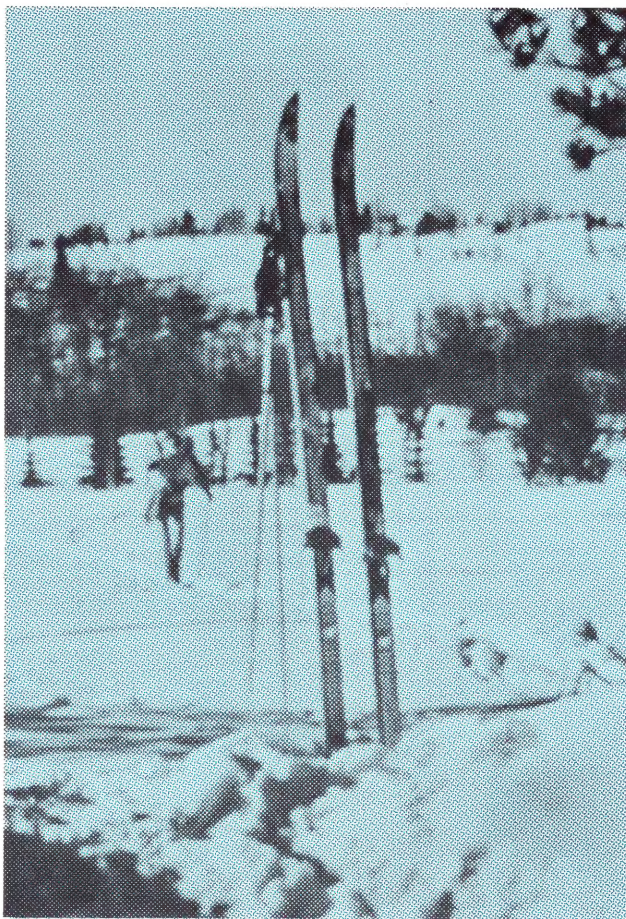
While the trail system provides health exercise, it is not spartan. Drinking fountains, washroom facilities and telephone booths are included.

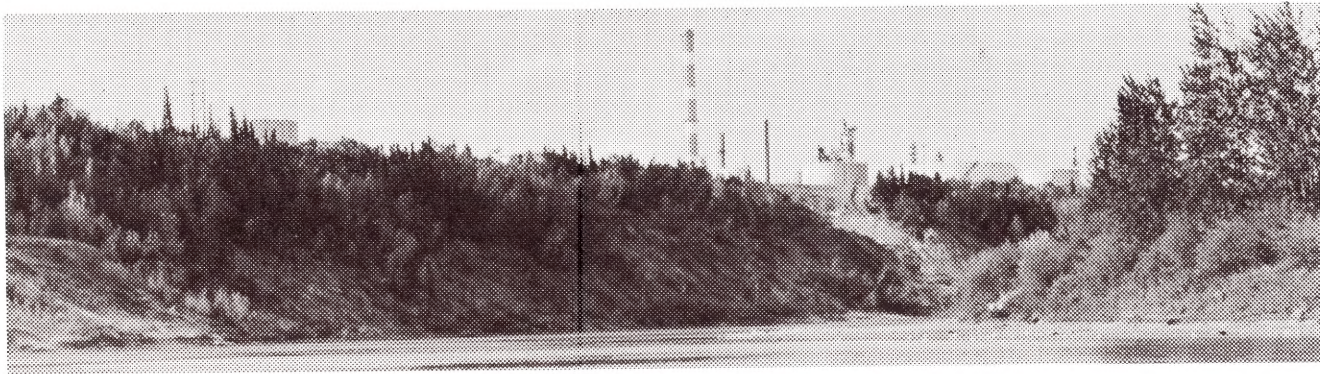
Viewpoints and rest areas have been installed at locations where the sweep of the river valley and the city skyline provide a pleasing panorama.

Where grades allow, sections of the trail system have been constructed for use by the handicapped. Drinking fountains and picnic tables within these areas were designed for the use of those confined to wheelchairs.

Both trail systems convert, in winter, to the uses of snowshoeists and cross-country skiers. Hardy grasses were planted on some slopes in the bicycle trail system to facilitate their use by skiers during winters with low snowfall. Skiing runs are one-way and marked to indicate level of difficulty. Snowshoeists will use the hiking trail for their activities to avoid conflict.

Where the park has not been able to acquire sufficient land for trail development, consultants recommend the use of existing roadways, but with heavy emphasis on signs alerting hikers and cyclists to the presence of automobile traffic. These byways have been given legislative treatment by the city indicating their use.





Landscaping

Short of a magician to change piles of rubble and broken concrete into grass, it will take \$1,610,000 to re-work some of the eyesore areas which were within the boundaries of Capital City Recreation Park. Roman Fodchuk & Associates Ltd., who prepared the cost estimates and breakdown for landscape and refurbishment and rehabilitation within the park, indicated that landscape rehabilitation would be based on three major operations.

Landscape development would encompass all areas within the water conservation area and small portions outside this area requiring site clean-up, moving of fill and contour shaping, rough grading, tree and shrub planting, top soil and fine grading.

Certain areas within the park are also subject to erosion which can be handled through provision of fill, re-contouring of slopes, tree and shrub planting and in some cases, the provision of soil-saver hemp mesh.

Landscaping also included funds for the clean-up of properties acquired by the city and the planting of grass, trees and shrubs once they were acquired.

Some landscaping funds were also included in the budgets for development of other park areas, such as the 5,000 trees in Rundle Park. Upwards of 35,000 trees and shrubs have been planted along with the sowing of an estimated 200 million wild flower seeds. Portions of the budget previously assigned to the weir project were allocated to landscaping.

Security

Of vital concern to those planning Capital City Recreation Park is the protection of the public, security of the park's facilities and the protection of land and properties adjacent.

While all city parks are presently patrolled on a regular basis by Edmonton city police, some special considerations have been given due largely to the size of the area and the length of the trails.

Parks, to this point, are patrolled only where roadways are available. However, the police department has looked at various methods of patrolling the river valley and contributory ravines within the city to establish a police presence within those areas.

The design of the trail systems themselves and the integration of those systems is considered a major benefit to the organization of such a patrol system.

The city's curfew on park areas, beginning at 11 p.m. and ending at 8 a.m., is also considered an important means of preventing serious crime in park areas. Intensified lighting in areas surrounding recreation facilities and parking lots is considered very important.

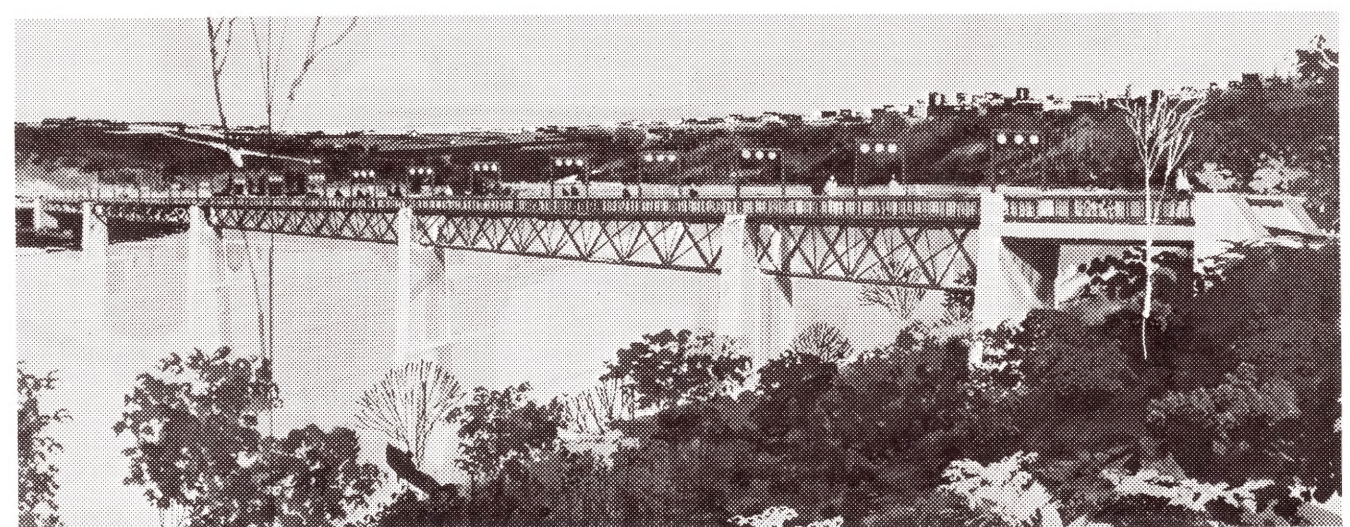
It is felt operating personnel will provide adequate protection for major park buildings during the day. Patrols by city police personnel and an alarm system provided by the city for the protection of major buildings during unoccupied periods were installed. Night security personnel are to be provided at some facilities where specific experience indicates the need.

The park's picnic areas and equipment were designed for rugged and extensive use, the design being such that use is maximized and potential for vandalism minimized. Washroom and rest areas have been designed for unsupervised operation with only periodic maintenance checks required.

Protection of the trails system from use by unauthorized vehicles is thought to be served best by a combination of specially designed access points incorporating fencing and bollards with periodic patrols by city police and the cooperation of area residents to report infractions. Everything from barriers to the planting of thorny shrubs to discourage users from traversing environmentally sensitive areas was considered and implemented.

Industrialized areas across the river from Rundle Park have been removed from the trails system as being too expensive to develop and keep free from interference. Attending these concerns was the concern for public safety due to the presence of water intakes, high voltage power lines and high pressure steam lines in the area.

The use of natural barriers and plantings was considered the most viable solution to encroachment of park activities on adjacent residential land.



Pedestrian Bridges

Four graceful bridges, designed for pedestrians and cyclists, cross the North Saskatchewan River.

Linking the park's hiking and cycling trails at strategic locations along the river, the bridges facilitate access to park users from either side of the river and also provide valley tourers with "walks" or "rides" of logical length which also returns hikers or cyclists to their starting point.

Total budget for the four structures is \$5,560,000.

One bridge, connecting Rundle and Strathcona Parks, has been built with added capacity so that it can

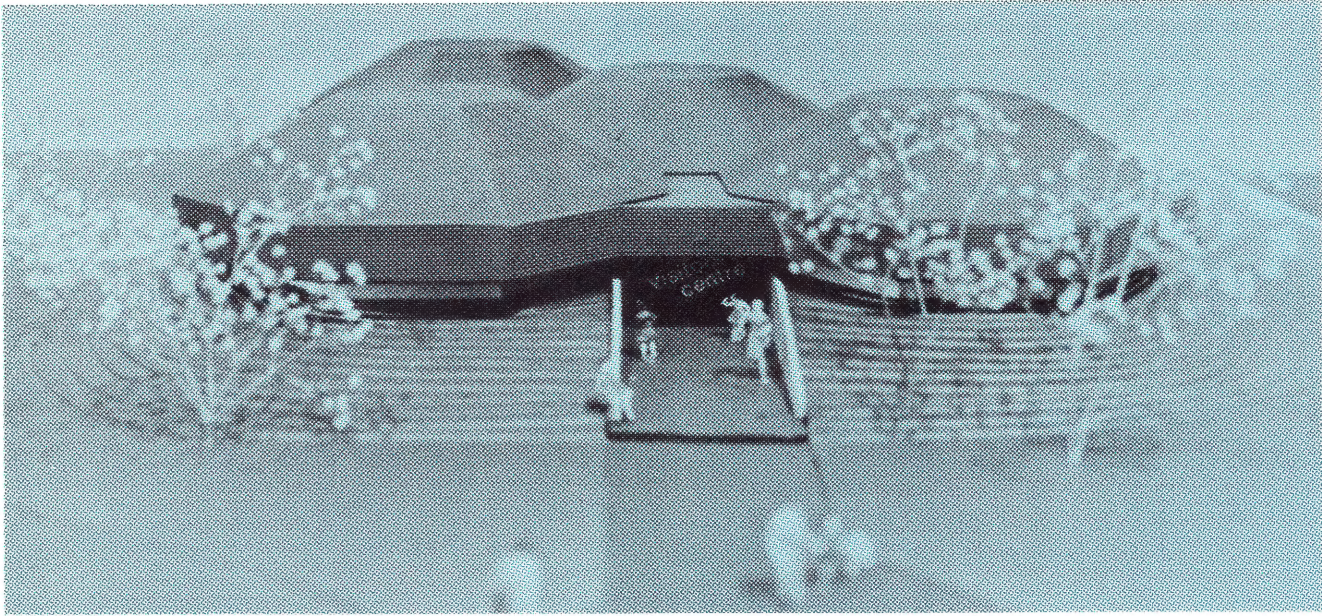
accommodate a public transportation system for the disabled, thus enabling them to travel between Strathcona Science Park and Rundle Park.

Other crossings join Gold Bar and Rundle Parks at 50th Street and below Grierson Hill.

Two styles are used: deck trusses have been constructed at Grierson and Rundle-Gold Bar, and through trusses at 50th Street and Rundle-Strathcona.

The bridges also act as a stand for observing river activities and for general viewing of the valley and city skyline.

Two overpasses were also constructed — one over Rowland Road and the other across 98 Avenue near the Muttart Conservatory.



Strathcona Science Park

Strathcona Science Park forms the most easterly node of the Capital City Recreation Park plan, and will provide a dynamic new provincial educational and cultural facility in a beautifully landscaped provincial park. This adds a further dimension to the excellent recreational opportunities of the total Capital City Recreation Park.

Strathcona Science Park is located on the eastern side of the North Saskatchewan River in the County of Strathcona, adjacent to the eastern gateway to the city

at Highway No. 16. The Strathcona site is about 2 kilometres in length and up to 1,500 metres in width. It comprises a high plateau with steep slopes dropping down to the river, affording commanding views of the river valley, downtown Edmonton and petrochemical industries nearby.

The 350-acre site is a key element in the Capital City Recreation Park plan, providing for rehabilitation and beautification of a derelict site ringed by industry, which otherwise might adversely affect the Capital City Park concept.

The planning of the park has been the responsibility of the Science Centre Committee, with Raymond Harrison, MRAIC, as the programming and development consultant.

The concept of a river valley park fringing an industrial area is not only noteworthy in itself, but it provides a relevant setting for a natural resource science interpretive centre. As the first major cultural facility on the eastern side of Edmonton, it provides a balance to the museums and the historical and cultural attractions located in the western part.

When fully developed, the south end of Strathcona Science Park will feature a nature interpretive area in the ravine and an extensive picnic area with well developed viewpoints. The north end is being developed into a ski hill complex.

The allocation of \$5 million for the Strathcona Science Park has been concentrated on the building of a central courtyard with surrounding pavilions.

The Strathcona Science Park is being developed as a vital public educational institution in popular science and technology, for the purpose of enabling Albertans to better understand the rapid and complex changes taking place now and in the future.

It will lead to better understanding of the complexities of energy and natural resource development, and their relation to environmental issues.

The park will serve the educational system in ways which are not practical in the school classroom, and provide for informal programs for young Albertans, such as Junior Scientist and Science Fair programs, as well as facilities for adult education.

It will be the first science park in Western Canada and will emphasize Alberta's new status in the world of science and technology.

The Strathcona Science Park will be an essentially different experience to traditional museums, for it will be strong on modern technology, visitor participation, demonstrations, and audio-visual presentations.

The park is expected to be completed in mid-1979.

The Park at a Glance

Cost:

Funded through the Alberta Heritage Trust Fund, the park was estimated to cost \$34 million in 1974 dollar value (\$29 million plus \$5 million for land cost), which is equivalent to: \$37 million in 1978 dollar value, plus land cost (estimated \$3.6 million to date, additional \$1.5 million budgeted for 1978).

Size:

Approximately 3,000 water and land acres. 16 kilometres long. Starts at High Level Bridge, then downstream on the North Saskatchewan River, including both river banks. Ends 2½ kilometres past the Beverly Bridges north of Kennedale Ravine.

Various developments have been constructed in the following City of Edmonton parks:

- Walterdale (Kinsmen)
- Queen Elizabeth
- Mill Creek
- Forest Heights
- Capilano Ravine
- Capilano
- Gold Bar
- Hermitage (includes Kennedale Ravine)
- Rundle
- Floden
- Kinnaird Park
- Grierson Hill
- Baden Powell

Other areas where park planning and construction has taken place include:

- Legislative Grounds
- Strathcona Science Park — County of Strathcona
- Areas along both banks of the North Saskatchewan River
- On various designated city streets

Buildings Constructed:

Amenities structures at Cloverdale, Dawson, Capilano and a shelter at Kinnaird Ravine.

Eight science pavilions, one administration building, one maintenance building, one ski pavilion and one picnic structure in Strathcona Science Park.

Funds provided to City of Edmonton for:

- a Family Recreation Centre, two interpretation buildings, a district sports centre, a golf course clubhouse and a maintenance building at Rundle;
- picnic and washroom buildings and a playground structure in Gold Bar Park;
- a washroom and maintenance building in Hermitage Park.

Steel Bridges and Overpasses Built:

Pedestrian/bicycle bridges (wooden decks with observation platforms):

- Grierson/Cloverdale (198 Metres)
- 50 Street (Capilano/Highlands) (274 M)
- Gold Bar/Rundle (260 M)
- Rundle/Strathcona (this bridge has a concrete deck to handle a future low-pressure tire park train for disabled persons) (335 M)

Overpasses:

- Rowland Road
- 98 Avenue at 96A Street

Steel structures include:

- 1,100 tons of structural steel
- 350 tons of re-bar
- 8,000 cubic yards of concrete

Wood Bridges Built:

Rowland Ravine
Mill Creek
Below Highlands Golf Course
Below Ada Boulevard

Water Recreation Facilities:

Fresh water lagoon system — Rundle Park (13 acres, 6 ponds)
Two fountains — Rundle Park
Fishing pond — Hermitage Park (15 acres)
Boat launch and recovery area — Cloverdale
Launch and recovery improvements to 50 Street

Trails:

Bicycle	29 kilometres	(paved)
Hiking	26 kilometres	(gravelled)
TOTAL	55 kilometres	

Landscaping:

705 acres of landscaping development (including 100 acres in Hermitage, 288 acres in Rundle and 160 acres in Gold Bar Parks).

116 acres of erosion control.
7,950 trees planted (including 1,700 in Rundle, 850 in Hermitage and 900 in Gold Bar Parks).
31,600 shrubs (4,600 in city parks area).
200 million perennial wild flower seeds planted by helicopter along river valley.
105 acres of hydroseeding.
26 acres of aerial hydroseeding.

Low Level Berms (For River Bank Stabilization):

3 kilometres of berms below Forest Heights, Grierson Hill and Strathcona Science Park.

- 75,000 cubic yards of gravel
- 27,000 cubic yards of heavy rock

Athletic Developments:

950 metres of lighted cross-country ski maze (Kinsmen Pitch and Putt Course)
Ski hill — Strathcona Science Park (expert, intermediate and beginner) — lights and tows
Ski hill — Hermitage Park
Fishing pond — Hermitage Park
Lighting — Gold Bar Park athletic field
Irrigation system — Rundle par-3 golf course and Gold Bar athletic field

Other Park Facilities and Equipment:

10	picnic stoves
67	picnic tables (9 for handicapped)
10	fire pits
50	park benches
377	bicycle racks
638	car bumper posts
200	car wheel stops
342	path bollards
8	flag poles
4	dedication cairns
3,152	metres guardrails
2,600	metres horizontal drains (below Ada Boulevard)
56	culverts (624 metres long)
5,350	metres safety chain link fencing
1	view deck (capilano Freeway)
800	park signs
12,750	metres wooden retaining walls